

WIC Local Agency Conference Call Minutes

July 12, 2012

9:00am – 11:00am

Attendees: Joan Bowsher, Tara Ray, Carrie Reynolds, Leah Steinle and Chris Fogelman (remote from Billings), Bernadette Lahr, Glade Roos, and Corrine Kyler (fiscal).

Roll Call: Local Agency representatives from all areas except for the Northern Cheyenne agency.

Joan: Joan introduced new staff: Noelle Uncles is the new administrative support person in the state office and Glade Roos is the new Vendor Coordinator. Joan also said thank you to Tessa Bailey, she will be leaving at the end of the month.

Announcements:

1. We have hired a new helpdesk person, Arlene Stulc, and she will start on July 25, 2012.
2. World Breastfeeding Week is August 1 – 7. Please email and let us know if you have any activities planned for this.
3. We have submitted the State Plan to the Regional Office.
4. We are working on some evaluations of program projects such as our outreach campaign; and participant comparison with Medicaid, SNAP, & TANF. We will keep you updated on the findings.
5. Please register for Fall Training. The agenda is nearly complete and includes program information, mandatory reporting, motivational interviewing, etc.

Tara: Tara presented on the Infant Formula Transition. This information is also available in the newsletter.

Leah: Leah explained the new procedures for the online sale of WIC foods. The local agency is to contact the state office about the suspected sale and the state office will try to confirm if it is a WIC participant. If the seller is a WIC participant (or authorized representative), the state office will send a letter that includes the rights and responsibilities and supporting documentation of the sale. The WIC director will also be sent a copy. The next time the participant comes into the office, they must sign a warning letter and be given all appropriate referrals.

Bernadette: Bernadette gave an overview on the importance of time studies, reminded agency staff that July is a time study month and asked if anyone had any questions. She also stated that anyone with questions, or having trouble with their template to please e-mail or call.

No Kid Hungry is a statewide campaign to promote awareness of all free nutrition programs for people in need. Montana has over 20% of their children at risk of hunger. The governor and agency director support this project and Lisa Lee is the state's lead person for coordination and she can be reached at LLEE@mt.gov or by linking to the

website at www.mt.nokidhungry.org. Agencies were encouraged to use this information when developing their outreach projects and reminded them that the first newsletter of the month will contain an idea to use as their theme for that month. July's theme is "Bring a Friend to WIC". If a reminder note is placed by each agency computer to invite their participants to invite someone to come with them to WIC on their next visit or just call the office for more information may provide the agency with new eligible participants. Another tool to use.

Carrie: Carrie discussed Vendor Monitoring. A number of retail monitoring visits are incomplete and they are due by the end of July. Please contact the state office for an educational buy benefit and make appointments with the store to complete the visits.

Tara: Tara also discussed WICHealth.org. The available webinars are posted in the newsletter.